

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

September 25, 2007

Effective transition programs for juveniles and young adults are necessary to help reduce recidivism. In addition to appropriate assessment and treatment within juvenile facilities, a smooth transition from detention back to the community is essential. Without it, youth are often left without the supports necessary to combat the negative influences which contributed to their delinquent behavior.

InsideOUT Writers (IOW) is a unique program which has been successful in providing writing based treatment programs within the Juvenile Hall since its creation in 1995 by Sister Janet Harris, the Chaplain at Central Juvenile Hall. While incarcerated, youth in the IOW program learn to express their anger, frustration and disappointments through writing rather than violence. IOW teachers interact with the youth every week while they are detained; a RAND study conducted in 2006 found the IOW program to have a positive impact on the youth and that it produced good overall outcomes.

Presently, IOW focuses its writing program and treatment efforts inside all three juvenile halls, the county jail and the Division of Juvenile Justice, but has not expanded to include those students as they transition back into the community. The goal of the new IOW Alumni Support Center is to reduce crime and recidivism rates by providing mentors and transition services to these youth upon their release from detention

MOTION

MOLINA _____

BURKE _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

facilities. The goal of the new IOW Alumni Support Center is to reduce crime and recidivism rates by providing mentors and transition services to these youth upon their release from detention facilities. The Alumni Support Center will be housed in the Hollywood area close to public transportation, and services will include ongoing writing programs, training in life skills, education, job development and scholarships.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the CEO to appropriate \$250,000 in ongoing funds from the Third District Provisional Financing Uses Account to the Probation Department for the funding of the InsideOUT Writers Alumni Support Center as a Pilot Program.